

Remarks

Claim Rejections

Claims 1,2, 4-7 and 17-20 have been rejected over cited prior art. Claims 1, 2, and 17-20 have been cancelled and claims 4-7 have been amended where necessary to depend directly or indirectly from rewritten independent claim 3, which has been deemed to contain patentable subject matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 has been objected to on formal grounds but has been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervention claims. As such, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating all of the limitations of now cancelled claims 1 and 2. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to depend directly from rewritten claim 3. Claims 5 and 7 depend from claims 4 and 6. Claim 7 was also amended to correct a typographical letter omission at the start of the claim.


Claims 8-13 stand allowed. The Examiner is thanked for the consideration given these claims.

With the cancellation of original independent claims 1 and 17, no claim fees are believed due in connection with this amendment.

* * *

All of the remaining pending claims 3-13 are believed clearly in condition for allowance and a notice of their allowability is respectfully requested. For any questions on this amendment or the application, the Examiner is invited to contact applicant's representative at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas B. Ryan, Registration No. 31,659
Customer Number 23387
HARTER, SECREST & EMERY LLP
1600 Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604
Telephone: 585-231-1101
Fax: 585-232-2152